
Hunt
St Ives Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT.

1903.

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To the
St. Ives (Hunts.) Urban District Council.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you the Medical Officer's Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the town for the year ending 31st December, 1903.

BIRTHS.—Of these 60 have been registered, 32 males and 28 females. This is equal to a birth-rate of 20·0 per 1000 of population. The birth-rate of this town has been gradually falling off for some years. It is a national calamity that it is falling all over England, but we are far above the average of the fall, for in all England and Wales the rate for 1903 was 28·4, in rural England and Wales 27·3, as compared with our 20·0, i.e., we should have expected 23 more children to be born in the town from the average of England and Wales.

DEATHS.—Here the return is a much more satisfactory one, 28, equally divided between males and females, giving a rate of 9·4 per 1000, the lowest rate recorded for the town. The year throughout England has been a healthy one, the returns of England and Wales being 15·4 per 1000, and rural England 14·8.

Of children under one year there were only three deaths, being at the rate of 50 per 1000 births. This is also the lowest number I can find recorded. In England and Wales the same rate was 132, in rural England 118.

Of zymotic diseases there was but one death, from Small Pox. Phthisis and other tubercular diseases 4 deaths; of other lung diseases 5; cancer none.

Fifteen, or 53·5 per cent., of the total were persons over 65.

This points to a very healthy year, and has been felt all over England. It is coincident with a very heavy rainfall. This is not a record, 1877, 1879, 1889 (as kept at Streatham Engine), having beaten it. '77 and '89 had a low mortality, and 1879 a very large one, so that the rainfall cannot alone determine our mortality. Possibly it was helped by a cold and ungenial summer, to which we

certainly owe an entire absence of gastric and enteric disease. At the same time the hours of sunshine as registered in London for the year were above the average. The actual rainfall in the town was 27·57 inches, as against 17·71 in 1902, and 18·49 in 1901.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Two cases of Small Pox, one of Diphtheria, and nine of Scarlet Fever have been notified.

Last year I said we might expect a case of Small Pox, and that we hoped we were prepared for it. The first case occurred in May, all preparations were made and it was isolated in our railway vans, with two nurses, the day after the notification was received. Unfortunately the man suffered from complications and he died. All the arrangements were carried out satisfactorily, and the unfortunate issue was in no way due to the removal. The altered railway van and huts were most satisfactory, a great improvement on the previous plans some years ago; there was no difficulty in heating, but a canvas awning had to be erected to keep the van cool during the heat of the day. It is a plan much superior to the usual isolation in tents. The second case was a mild one of a modified form derived from the first, partially but not completely protected by vaccination, the operation having apparently been performed a day too late for complete protection.

At the time it seemed probable the infection was caught at a Fair at Market Harboro', but in the light of the subsequent very serious epidemic at Cambridge which was then going on undetected it is more probable that our attacks were connected with this. I am perfectly satisfied with our means of dealing with any case of Small Pox which may arise. Vaccination of all those who came in contact with the case was freely performed, and was effectual except in the one case noted above.

The nine cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type, and it is very evident that there were others which escaped notice from their mildness, many of the cases having been found only on examining other members of a family in which a more severe case had occurred. It was prevailing simultaneously in one of the villages, but the connection between the cases could seldom be ascertained.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL at Huntingdon was used for five out of the nine cases of Scarlet Fever. The other four were effectually isolated at home, occurring as they did in one family.

DISINFECTION has been usually performed by Formalin vapour. Usually the consent of the relatives has been obtained to disinfect the rooms after the use by consumptive patients. Some leaflets on the prevention of this disease drawn up by the County Medical Officer of Health, and issued by the County Council, were distributed by the Doctors and the District Nurse. I would recommend a more general distribution of these; one should be sent to every householder at least.

WATER SUPPLY from the East Hunts. Water Company has been abundant, but the means of filtration have not been satisfactory, and owing to the deposit of iron rust on standing it is not generally used. I hope this will be rectified before long, for though the water is harmless, and the iron in solution deposits in a filter, yet home filtration is liable to be dangerous and cannot be generally recommended.

SEWAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.—My inspection of all the cesspools has been completed and my report sent in to you during the year. It was satisfactory to find only 150 as compared with 337 ten years ago, but more than half the existing ones were dangerous to health, either because they were against the walls of the house or even the pantry, or were but a few feet from a window or door. I feel sure that the action you will take in this matter will make for a further improvement in the public health.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE has, as before, been carried out by contract, and no complaint has been received.

The bakehouses have been visited and found satisfactory.

The slaughterhouses have been visited and found satisfactory, and no complaints have been received.

The Acts in force in the Borough are the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act" and the "Infectious Diseases Prevention Act."

No Bye-laws are in force.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. REGINALD GROVE,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 1st, 1904.

APPENDIX.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of Houses and Premises inspected				161
Orders for Abatement of Nuisances (1st notice)				41
„ „ „ (2nd notice)				1
House drainage repaired	...	...		44
Privy vaults emptied		20
Bakehouses inspected		8
Cases of overcrowding		2
Ashbins removed		1

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Area in acres	2326
Population last census		2910
do. estimated to middle of 1903			...	2990
Number of inhabited houses	...	...		712
Birth-rate per 1000 of population	...	...		20.0
Death-rate „ „	...	...		9.4
Zymotic death-rate per 1000	...	...		.3
Death-rate from Phthisis	...	...		1.0
do. from Respiratory diseases		...		1.6
Deaths under one year to 1000 births		...		50.0
Deaths over 65, per centage of total deaths	...			53.5

TABLE I.

ST. IVES (HUNTS) URBAN DISTRICT.

For Whole District.

I	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS		DEATHS under 1 yr of age		DEATHS at all ages Total		Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the district.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	3025	65	21.4	5	76.8	24	7.9	...	...	6	30	9.9
1894	3025	66	21.8	8	121.2	46	15.2	...	...	3	49	16.2
1895	3025	78	25.8	10	128.0	53	17.5	...	...	0	53	17.5
1896	3025	70	23.1	14	200.0	47	15.9	...	...	0	47	15.9
1897	3037	88	28.9	8	90.9	36	11.8	...	...	3	39	12.8
1898	3037	60	19.7	7	116.6	48	15.8	...	...	1	49	16.1
1899	3037	59	19.4	6	101.7	60	19.7	...	...	3	63	20.7
1900	3037	73	24.3	5	68.5	29	9.5	...	...	2	31	10.2
1901	2910	50	17.2	9	180.0	37	12.7	...	...	4	41	14.0
1902	2950	64	21.7	5	78.1	32	10.9	...	...	1	33	11.2
Averages for years 1893—1902	3011	67.3	22.3	7.7	116.2	41.2	13.7			2.3	43.5	14.5
1903	2990	60	20.0	3	50.0	26	8.6			2	28	9.4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE II.

This District not being divided into "Localities," Table II. being only a repetition of Table I. is not printed.

TABLE III.

*ST. IVES (HUNTS) URBAN DISTRICT.*Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the
Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Cases notified in Whole District.							No. OF CASES RE- MOVED TO HOSPITAL
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	9	...	6	2	...	1	...	5
Typhus fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	12	...	7	2	...	3	...	7

TABLE IV.

ST. IVES (HUNTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.								Deaths in Public Institutions
	All ages.	Under 1 year	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 and up'rds		
Small-pox	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	..
Measles ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Scarlet fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Whooping-cough ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Croup ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
FEVER {	Typhus ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
	Enteric ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
	Other continued ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Epidemic influenza ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Cholera ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Plague ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Diarrhœa ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Enteritis ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Puerperal fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Erysipelas ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Other septic diseases	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Phthisis	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	..
Other tubercular diseases	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	..
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Bronchitis	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	..
Pneumonia	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	..
Pleurisy ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	..
Alcoholism	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	..
Cirrhosis of liver									
Veneral diseases ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Premature birth	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Heart diseases	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	..
Accidents ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Suicides ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
All other causes	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	9	..
All causes	28	3	1	...	2	7	15	...	